

# Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Policy Committee on  
Wildlife & Fisheries

September 10, 2015



# Proposed Orders

- For Information- NRC
  - Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Water Regulations (FO No. 205.16 of 2015)
  - Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters (FO No. 206.15A of 2015)
  - Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Bass, Pike, Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass (FO No. 215.15A of 2015)
  - Regulations on the Take of Freshwater Mollusks (FO No. 228.15 of 2015)
- For Action- NRC
  - Cornish State Game Area; Designation and Additional Rules (WCO Amendment No. 10 of 2015)
  - Spawning Closures (FO No. 204.16 of 2015)
  - Designated Trout Streams (FO No. 210.16 of 2015)
- For Information- Director
  - Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Drummond Island
- For Action- Director
  - State Licensed Commercial Fishing (FO No. 243 of 2015)
  - Order to Regulate Use of Cornish State Game Area, Van Buren County (LUOD Amendment No. 6 of 2015)



# NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

- Fisheries Chief Update
- Fishing Regulations
- Wildlife Chief Update
- Wildlife Strategic Plan and Action Plan Update
- Coyote Management



# Department of Natural Resources

## Fisheries Division Update

Jim Dexter, Fisheries Chief

September 10, 2015



# Aquatic Invasive Species

- Didymo (“rock snot”)
  - Coats bottom of stream, negatively impacting invertebrate densities and trout spawning habitat.
  - Recent detection in St. Mary’s River is first known bloom in MI.
- New Zealand Mudsnaill
  - Asexually produce in mass quantities/ extremely resilient
  - Recent discovery on upper Pere Marquette River (near Baldwin)





# **Thank you!**

## **Questions?**



# Saginaw Bay Walleye and Yellow Perch



Todd Grischke  
September 10, 2015





# Background

2014 YEP briefing paper:

- Life history
- Impacts of invasive species
- Current status
- Management options



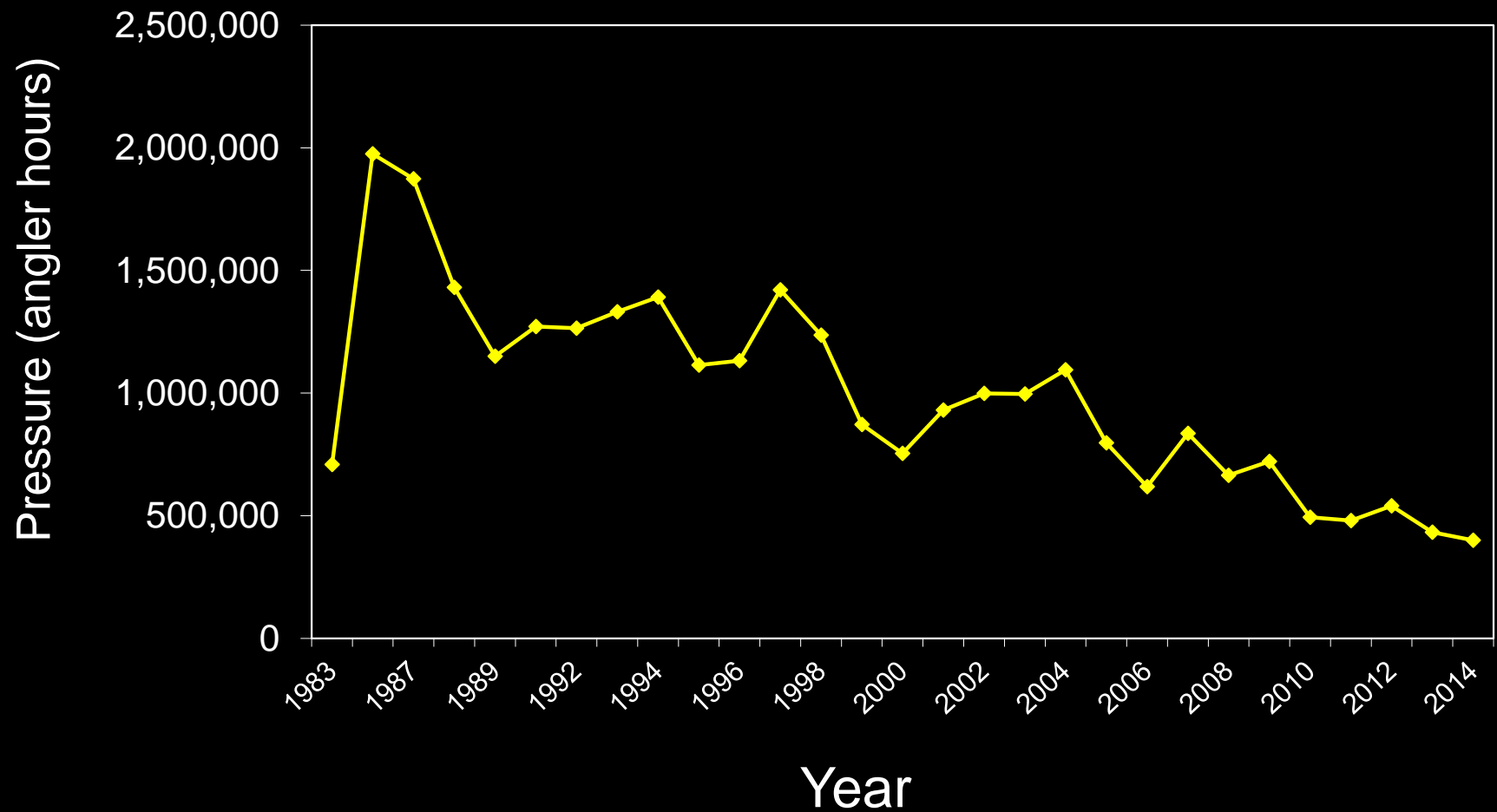


# Timeline

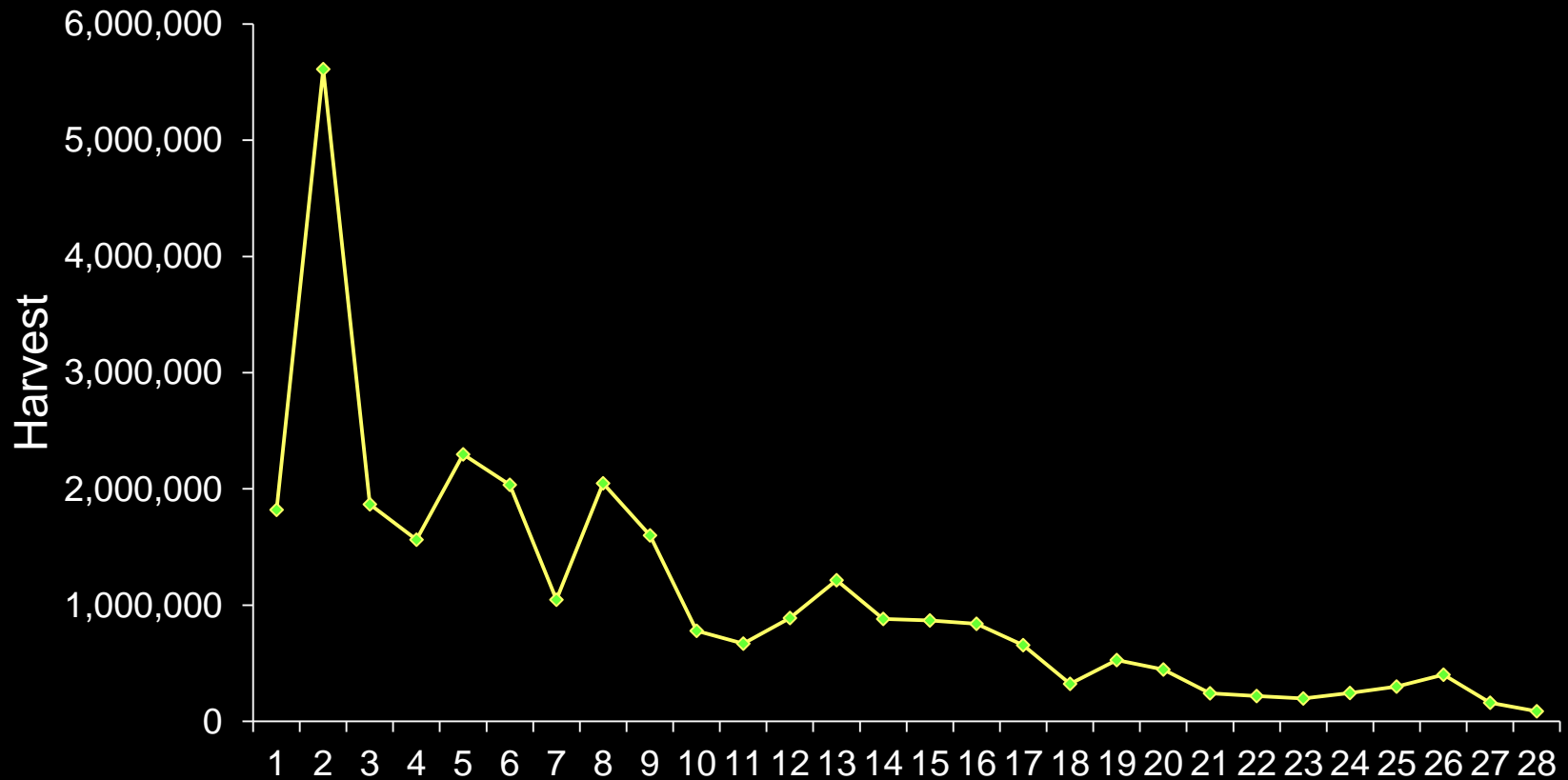
- April 2014-January 2015:  
Review YEP paper, LHCFAC
- April 2015: Supported options
- April-July 2015: Public outreach



# Saginaw Bay Open Water Fishing Pressure

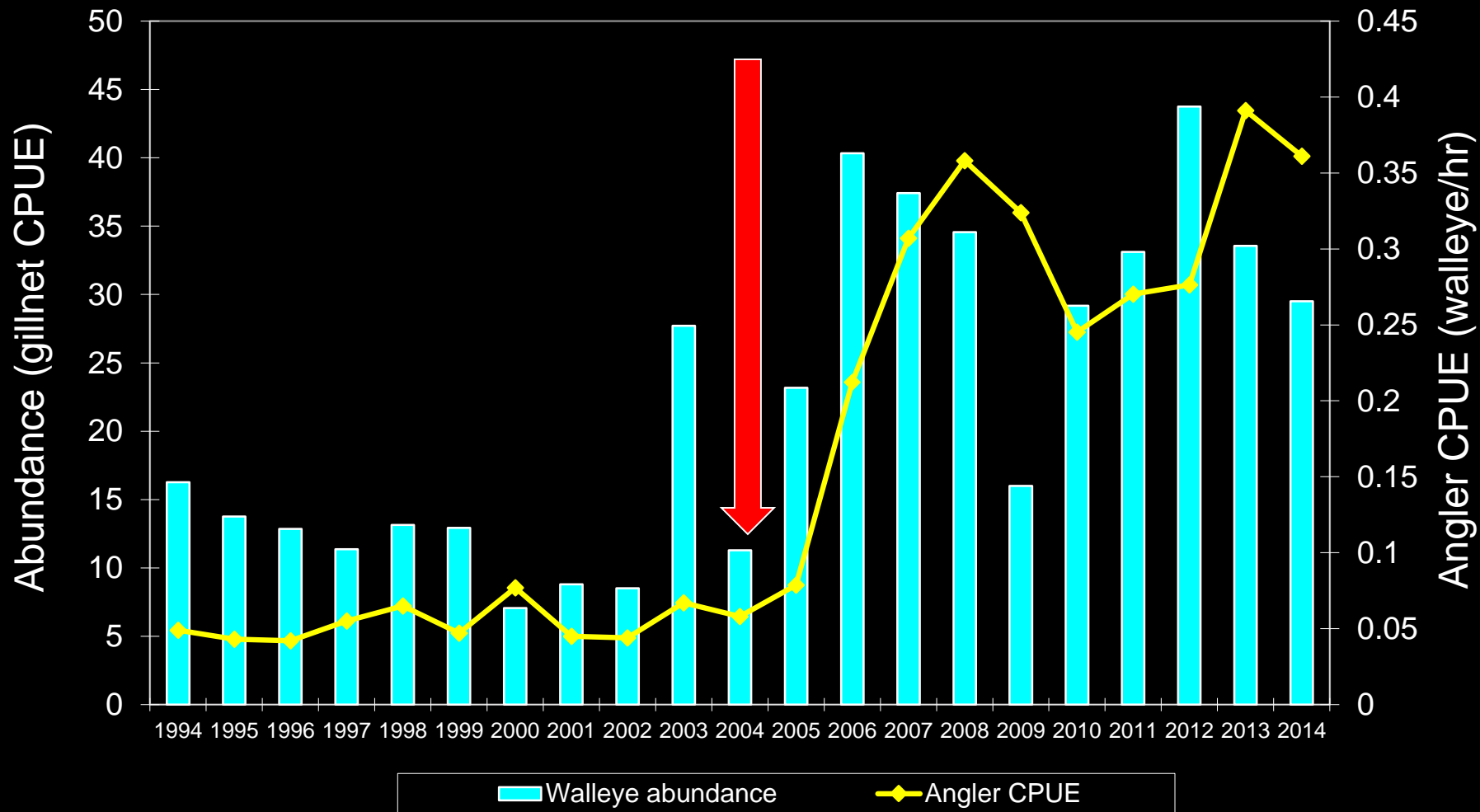


# Yellow perch harvest Saginaw Bay 1986-2014



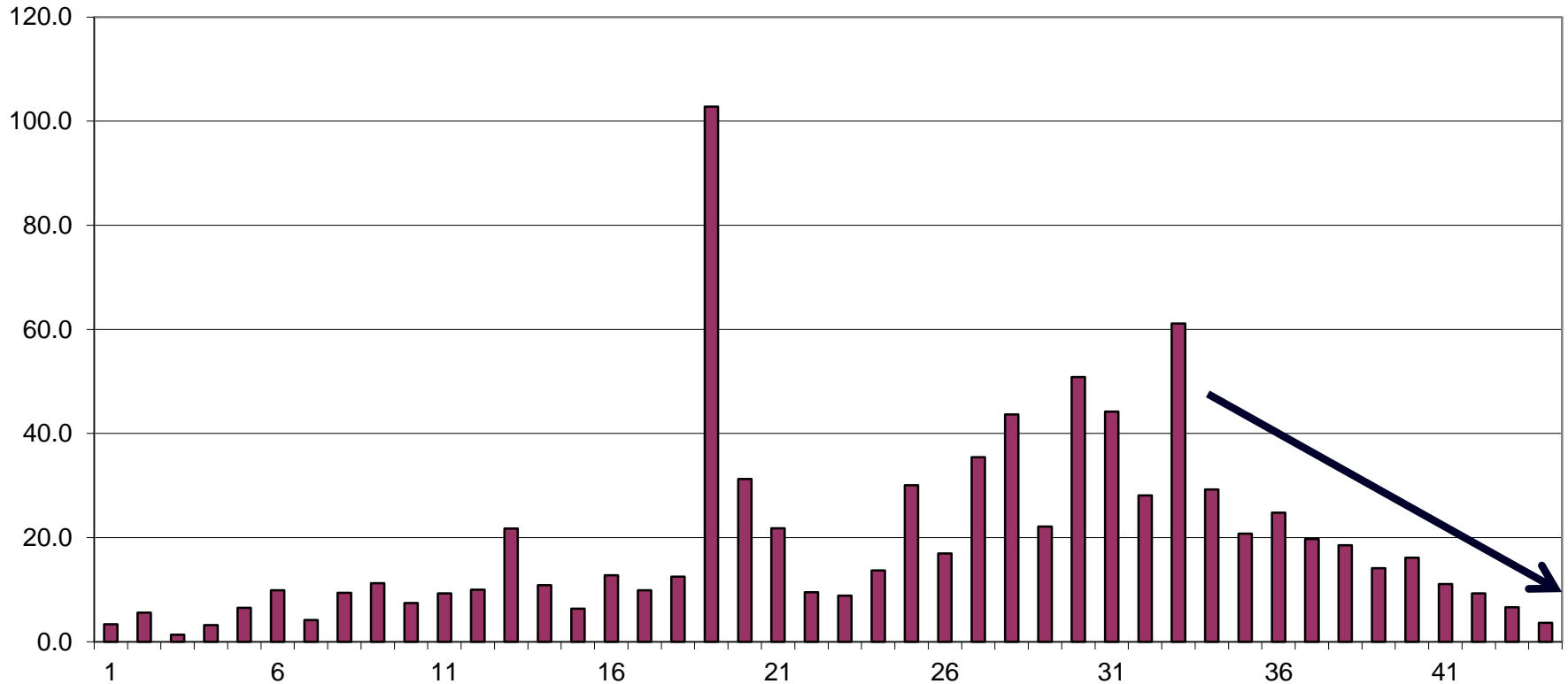


# Walleye Abundance and Angler Catch Rate Saginaw Bay 1994-2014



# Saginaw Bay Forage Index, Fall trawls

Forage index (Lbs./Acre)



Forage: Alewife, Emerald shiner, Gizzard Shad, Smelt, Spottail shiner, Round goby, Trout-perch, White bass, White perch, Age 0 Yellow Perch, Mimic shiner

# Impacts Saginaw Bay

- Walleye:
  - Growth rate declining
  - Size-at-age below target level
  - Total biomass > total prey biomass
- Yellow perch:
  - Population at very low level
  - Large component of walleye diet
  - Reproducing, but not recruiting
  - Prey: not surviving beyond age-1





# Proposed management strategies for Yellow perch in Saginaw Bay

- Reduce cormorant population in Bay
- Reduce commercial harvest of YEP
- Reintroduce Lake herring
- Reduce recreational harvest
- Liberalize walleye regulations



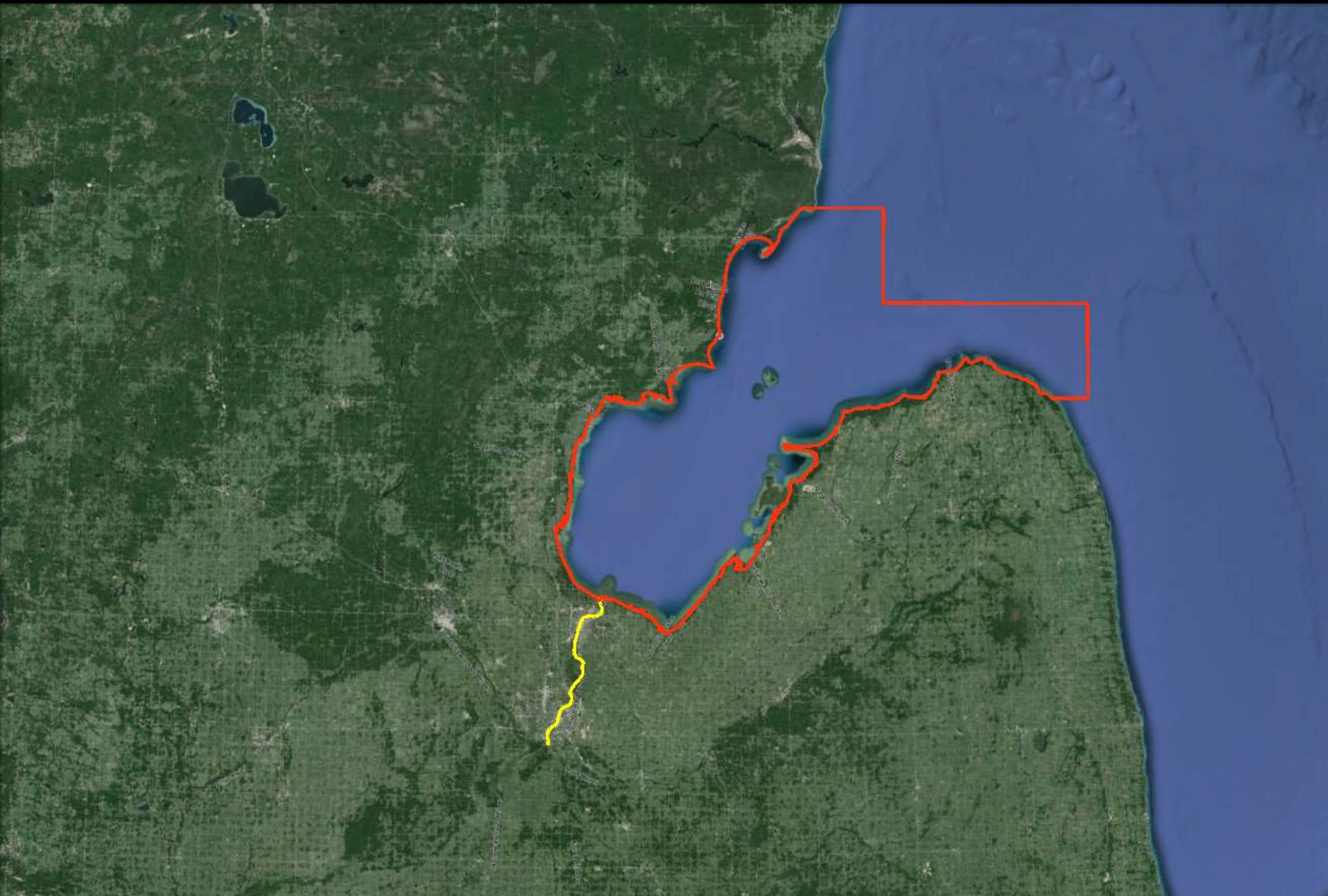
# Regulation options Saginaw Bay

## WALLEYE:

- Option 1: Status Quo
- Option 2: Minimum size limit 13 inches, daily bag limit of 8 walleye
- Option 3: Minimum size limit 13 inches, daily bag limit of 10 walleye

## YELLOW PERCH:

- Reduce daily bag limit from 50 to 25





# Public input

- LHCFAC: Jan 2014-Apr 2015
- DNR Website
- Public meetings
  - 2 Sea Grant Workshops
  - 1 DNR sponsored public meeting
- Emailbox



# Results: Public Input

- Attendance: 225
- Emailbox: 173
- Majority support:
  - Walleye: 13" MSL, 8 fish bag
  - Yellow perch: 25 fish bag



# Recommendation

- Proposed for immediate effect
- Walleye:
  - 13” MSL, 8 fish daily bag limit
  - Estimated 25% increase in harvest
- Yellow perch:
  - 25 fish daily bag limit
  - 8% reduction (2% of anglers)





# Communication

- Process similar to Lake Erie
- Major change, annual review
- Modify regulations as necessary
- Refer anglers to Hot Line #





# Thank you!

## Questions?



# Department of Natural Resources

## Fishing Regulations For Information

Nick Popoff, Fisheries Division  
September 10, 2015



# Fisheries Orders

1. Fisheries Order 205 – MI-WI Boundary Waters
2. Fisheries Order 206 – Special Regulations for Warmwater Fish – immediate effect
3. Fisheries Order 215 – Statewide Coolwater Regulations – immediate effect
4. Fisheries Order 228 – Mollusk Regulations – immediate effect





# FO – 205, Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations

- Lake sturgeon rehabilitation ongoing for Menominee River
  - Currently CIR from Hattie St. Dam down to Lake Michigan.
- Good habitat between Park Mill (just above Hattie) and Grand Rapids Dam
  - In 2015, MI and WI began moving adults above Park Mill for rehabilitation.
  - Harvest above Park Mill could impact rehabilitation efforts.
- Propose CIR for Lake Sturgeon from Grand Rapids Dam down to Lake Michigan







# FO – 206, Special Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters

- Lake Gogebic walleye exhibit slow growth
  - Public meetings with strong support to modify MSL to improve harvest rates.
  - Biological support for harvesting smaller fish.
  - Proposal: Allow two walleye from 13 – 15” as part of five fish daily bag limit.
- Tahquamenon River muskellunge population with good density but slow growth
  - Few muskies reach 42” MSL.
  - Propose lowering MSL to 38” to increase harvest opportunities.
- Northern Pike Protected Slot Limit (24 – 34”)
  - Sand Lake (Montcalm) – has potential to produce large pike and anglers are supportive of a slot limit.





# FO – 206, Special Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters

- Northern Pike no MSL (1 > 24")
  - Paradise (Cheboygan/Emmet), Pickerel, Kimball, Emerald, Sylvan (Newaygo), Susan (Charlevoix), Orchard (Presque Isle).
- Northern Pike no MSL no limit
  - Lake Lavine (Branch) is managed for trout. Would like to reduce pike populations w/o reclaiming lake.
- Remove reference to Brown Bridge Pond (Grand Traverse).



# F0 – 215, Statewide Coolwater Regulations

- Propose mandatory registration for all bass fishing tournaments
- Proposed Catch and Delayed Release Bass Tournament Lakes (last Sat in April to Sat before Memorial Day):
  - Burt & Mullet (Cheboygan)
  - Charlevoix (Charlevoix)
  - Houghton (Roscommon)
  - Hardy Dam Pond (Newaygo)
  - Muskegon (Muskegon)
  - Gun (Barry)
  - Gull (Kalamazoo)
  - Portage Chain (Livingston)
  - Kent (Oakland)
  - Pontiac (Oakland)
  - Cass (Oakland)





# Bass Catch-and-Delayed Release Lakes



Map by Institute for Fisheries Research  
Michigan DNR &  
University of Michigan  
August 2015



# FO – 215, Statewide Coolwater Regulations

- Saginaw Bay: propose a 8 fish bag limit and 13" MSL for walleye and a 25 fish bag limit for yellow perch (MH-4 + Sag Rv to Center Br. Rd).
- Expand the Little Bay de Noc walleye protection zone where only 1>23" may be harvested (from Ford R to Bark R).
- Remove language to provide publication for Lake Erie walleye bag limits.





# FO – 215, Statewide Coolwater Regulations

- Combined Possession Limit:
  - Northern Pike, Bass, Walleye, and Catfish are currently managed under a combined 5 fish limit.
  - Likely for predator protection but anglers rarely fish for multiple species during one fishing trip.
  - Internal and external discussions supportive of removing combined requirement.
- Propose to allow anglers to harvest up to 5 of each species and managed by waterbody.



# FO – 215, Statewide Coolwater Regulations

- Propose a higher bag limit for Northern Pike in Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and St. Clair River
  - Currently two fish bag limit.
  - Propose 5 fish bag limit if proposal to remove the combined possession limit is approved.
  - Survey info and public input supports a 5 fish bag limit.





# FO – 228, Take of Freshwater Mollusks

- This Order has expired.
- Prohibits the take of native mussels.
- Division review conducted.
- Propose to renew as written for immediate effect.



# **Thank you!**

## **Questions?**



# Wildlife Chief Update

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# Wildlife Chief Update

- Blue Ribbon Panel- September 29
- New Hunter Access Grant- \$950,000 for the NLP
- Update on Agricultural Damage Issues in the NLP- The Process is Working
- Disease Update- All Good News



# Thank You





*the gps*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES



# GPS Update Team



Amy Derosier



Chad Fedewa



Mike Donovan

Jesse Bramer



Jeremiah Heise



Chris Hoving



Sherry  
MacKinnon



Katie Keen

Dusty Arsnoe



Sarah Cummins



Keith Kintigh



Barb Avers

*the GPS*

# GPS History



# GPS Update

- Backbone of update:
  - Strategic Issues identified by stakeholders
  - Visions of Success
- Focus of update:
  - Easier to use in annual work planning
  - Better communicate how we do our work



# The Update Process & Next Steps

Completed ✓

Completed ✓

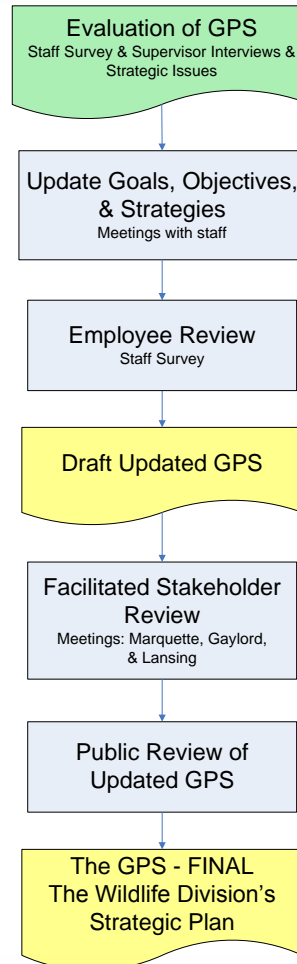
In process ★

September ↖

October ↖

November ↖

December ◎



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# Securing the Future of Michigan's Wildlife



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# Securing the Future of Michigan's Wildlife

- Goal 1: Manage for healthy and sustainable populations of wildlife
- Goal 2: Manage habitat for sustainable wildlife populations and wildlife-based recreation
- Goal 3: Manage land use and infrastructure while ensuring effective stewardship of wildlife habitat



# Enhancing Wildlife Recreation



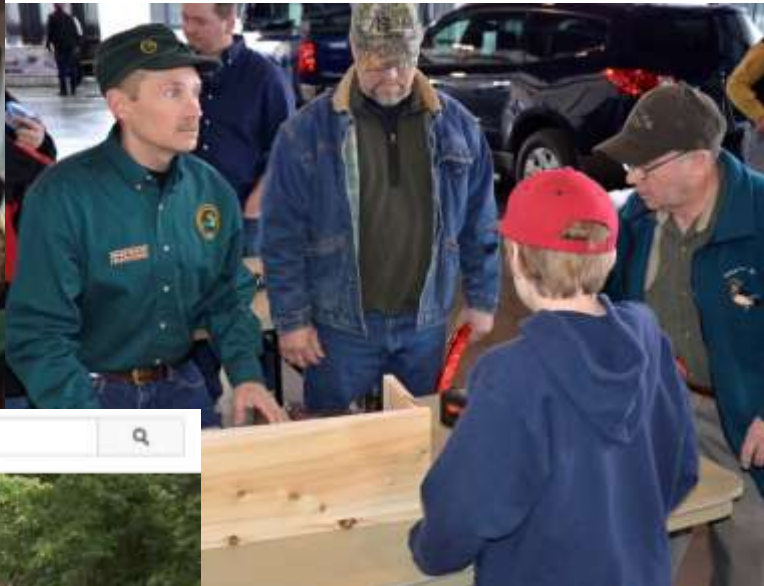
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# Enhancing Wildlife Recreation

- Goal 4: Enhance sustainable wildlife recreation use and enjoyment



# Serving Michigan Citizens



## More Bang for Your Buck

Expanding our ability to implement our Guiding Principles and Strategies (GPS)

*the GPS*



## Goal 5: Improve public communication, and maintain strong relationships and partnerships

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# Improving How We Work



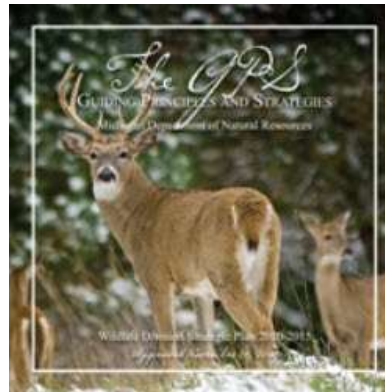
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# Improving How We Work

- Goal 6: Foster and adopt effective business practices



# Re-Routing While Staying On Course



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## Re-Routing While Staying on Course

- Goal 7: Develop and implement systems that lead to continuous improvement in how we work

# The Update Process & Next Steps

Completed ✓

Completed ✓

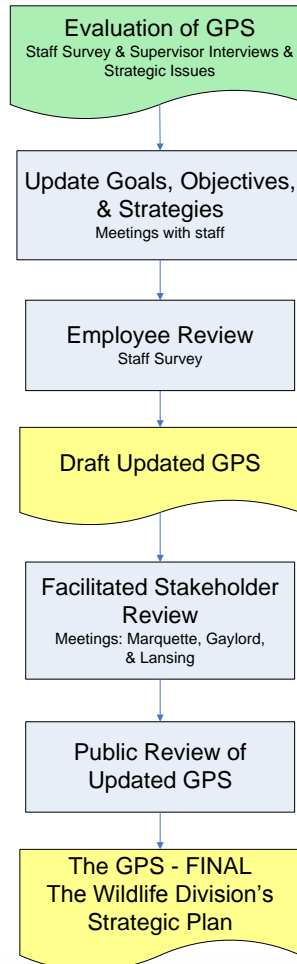
In process ★

September ◀

October ◀

November ◀

December ◎



➤ Work with NRC

➤ Stakeholder meetings:  
UP, NLP, SLP

➤ Reach out to key groups

*the GPS*



# Thank You!



Questions?

*the GPS*



# MICHIGAN'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

*Working together to prevent wildlife from  
becoming endangered*

Amy Derosier, Wildlife Division

Scott Hanshue, Kevin Wehrly, Fisheries Division

# MICHIGAN'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

*The goal of Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan is to provide a common strategic framework that will enable Michigan's conservation partners to jointly implement a long-term holistic approach for the conservation of wildlife.*





# FUNDING

- Required to receive State Wildlife Grants
  - Largest source of funding for nongame in DNR
- Funding from revenues collected from Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas royalties
- Must be updated every 10 years



# PRIORITIZING EFFORTS

- Show tangible outcomes
- Focus resources
- Create stronger partnerships
- Prevent listings





# TERRESTRIAL PRIORITIES

1. Large Grasslands
2. Young Forests
3. Floodplain Forest
4. Fen
5. Prairie & Savana
6. Northern Dry Forest & Pine Barrens
7. Great Lakes Marsh & Inland Emergent Wetlands
8. Dunes & Sand/Gravel Beach
9. Disease Issues



# AQUATIC PRIORITIES

1. St. Clair – Detroit River System
2. Great Lakes Ciscos
3. Warmwater streams and their headwaters
4. Inland Cisco Lakes
5. Littoral Zones
6. Big Rivers

# WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- What are large grasslands?
- Who contributed to this plan?
- Who uses large grasslands?
- Why are large grasslands important?



# WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- What is the status?
- What are the goals?
  - Increase the size and quality of grassland complexes in southern Michigan. [PRI, JV]
  - Stabilize or increase population trend of Dickcissel



# NEXT STEPS

- Public Review
- Submission to US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Continue partnerships
  - Bringing funding to Michigan for conservation





# QUESTIONS?



# Coyote Management



Adam Bump  
Furbearer Specialist  
Wildlife Division  
September 10, 2015



# Potential Management Needs

- Consistent → increasing suburban/urban concerns
  - Coyotes visible or seen in areas not noticed before
  - Perceived safety concerns
- Increasing interest in predator harvest by deer hunters
  - Desire reduction in deer mortality
- UP Deer Population
  - Desire to increase population



# Management Considerations

- Currently very broad regulations to handle “nuisance” coyotes
- Long hunting season, many methods of take, long trapping season
- Typically over the long term and large scale, habitat management efforts are more effective and economically viable than predator control when managing deer (and other prey species)





# Current Regulations

- Hunting (July 15 – April 15)
  - Furharvester or resident base license
  - Calls, dogs
- Trapping (October 15 – March 1)
  - Furharvester
- Damage/Nuisance
  - All year on private land when doing or about to do damage to private property
  - no license- considered a permittee
- Nighttime

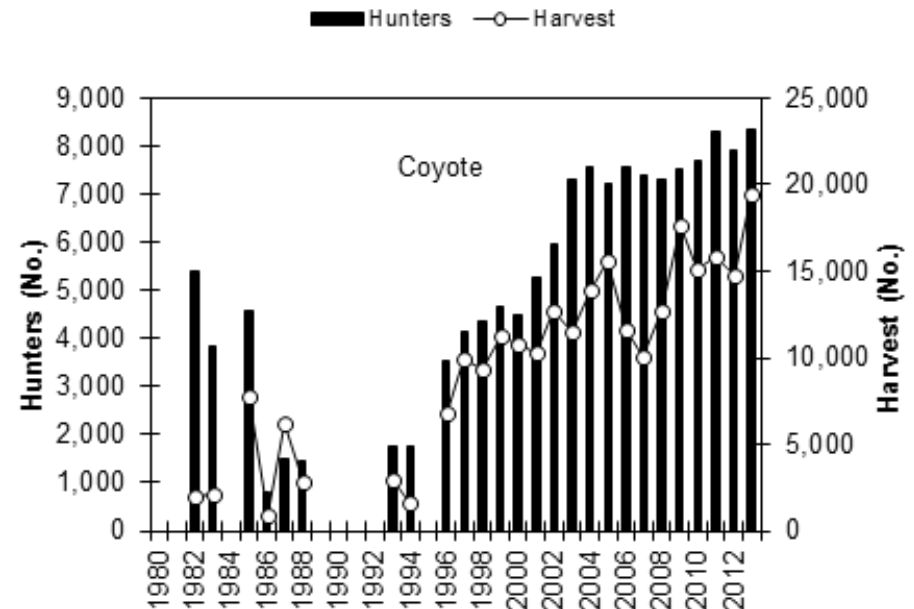
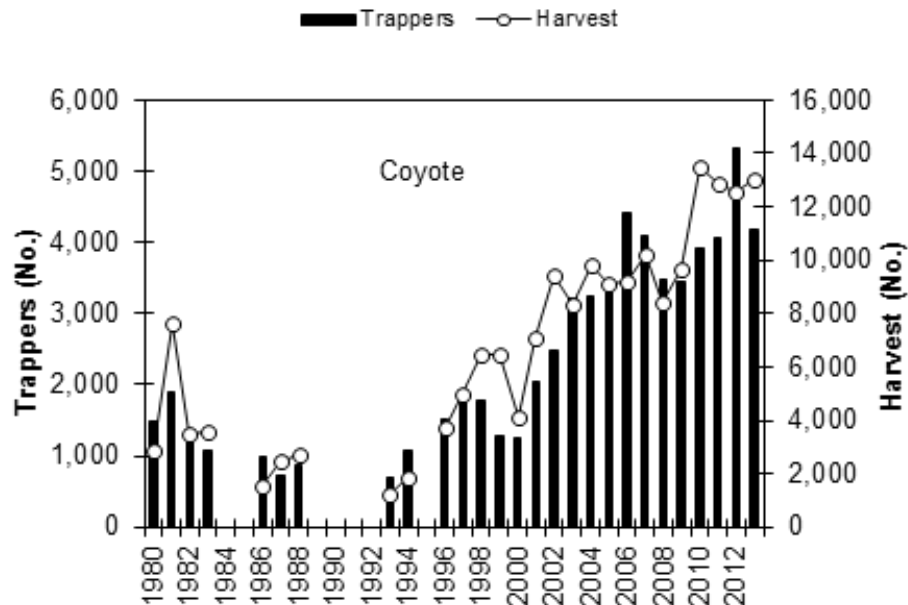


# Other States/Provinces

|           | Hunting Season      | License                        | Trapping Season                                      | Nuisance/Damage                                      | Restrictions                             |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Minnesota | Year round/no limit | None required                  | same   |  | Use of lights is limited                 |
| Wisconsin | Year round/no limit | Small game (for some)          | Restricted in some cases/trapping license (for some) |  | Use of lights is limited                 |
| Indiana   | Oct 15-March 15     | Small game                     | Same- requires trapping license                      | Year round on private land No license for landowners | Nighttime requires light on at all times |
| Ohio      | Year round/no limit | Small game                     | same   |  | Deer season restrictions                 |
| Ontario   | Yes- variable       | Small game + tag in some areas | Yes- same  |  | A lot of variability                     |

# Michigan Harvest

- Harvest trend → increasing since early 1990s
- Difficult to assess population



# Options to Increase Harvest



- 4 Options to present
  - MAY increase harvest of coyotes
  - No indication that these options will result in a measurable impact on desired outcomes
  - Not likely to have a large scale impact on coyote populations



# Option 1: Open Hunting on all land ownerships year round

- Harvest from April 16- July 14 currently may only occur on private land when coyotes are doing or about to do damage to private property
- Expand hunting onto public lands and remove restrictions on when/why coyotes may be taken
- Require license
- Continue to allow take by hunting AND trapping without a license on private lands when doing or about to do damage to private property



# Option 2: Localized Direct Removal

- Locate critical zones in UP where coyote reduction is desired to attempt to aid in increasing deer numbers
- Use Wildlife Services to remove coyotes at critical time periods
- Minimal impact- small areas only
- Expensive
- Many factors might impact success
- Best if done with habitat efforts- habitat is critical for deer objectives
- General Cost:
  - \$100,000 – 4 months of control work by 2 individuals covering ~ 200 sq. miles



# Option 3: Triggered Extension

- Extend season/methods in certain areas
- Review management objectives for deer, etc and extend coyote harvest opportunities in areas where “needed”
- May help stakeholders feel they have some ability to aid in deer management efforts-easier to encourage increased activity in localized areas
- Less broad than a state-wide liberalization
- Unlikely to impact coyote or prey populations



# Option 4: Regulations Overhaul

- Evaluate all harvest regulations pertaining to coyote and simplify
- Look for ways to increase ability to harvest coyotes through regular means such as:
  - Longer seasons
  - Reduce equipment restrictions
- Spend time evaluating changes, gathering input/perspectives from furtakers
  - Desired changes
  - Most likely ways to boost success
- Provide desired opportunities while increasing harvest





# Thank You

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[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

